

several wounds and fell fainting. A wounded man feels intense thirst on account of loss of blood. Naturally all the three felt very thirsty. A Muslim brought water and first put it to the lips of Akrima, who seeing Suhail looking at the water with wistful eyes asked it to be taken to him. When the cup was put to the lips of Suhail he saw the eyes of Haris fixed upon it. So he sent the water back to Haris and Akrima. The result was that during this exercise of self-denial all the three expired leaving the cup of water untasted.

STORY 19.

SCREENING THE FAULTS OF OTHERS

THE companions of the Prophet connived at the sins and shortcomings of their brethren, and emphasized their virtues. In these degenerate days we take pleasure in dwelling upon the faults of brother Muslims. There is no mutual trust and our society is like a house divided against itself.

Once a man came to (Hazrat) Abu Baker and confessed that he had committed adultery. (Hazrat) Abu Baker asked him if he had told the secret to some other person too. On his replying in the negative (Hazrat) Abu Baker said to him "Go ! Repent of your sin and do not lift the cloak under which God, who accepts the sincere repentance of his creatures has hidden it."

This did not satisfy the man. He went to (Hazrat) Omar and told him everything. But he received the same reply.